

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 07105 281533Z

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TAGS: PFOR, H

SUB: UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL  
POLICIES IN AFRICA

1. REGISTRATION AT CONFERENCE INCLUDES 39 AFRICAN MEMBER STATES, SIX AFRICAN NON-MEMBER STATES PLUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, FOUNDATIONS. OBSERVERS INCLUDE WEST AND EAST GERMANY, FRANCE, IRAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, UNITED KINGDOM, YUGOSLAVIA, HOLY SEE AND U.S.
  2. IN 45 MINUTE OPENING ADDRESS UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL AMADOU MAHTAR M'BOW STRESSED THE RELEVANCE OF A DEFINITION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY AND SHAPING OF CULTURAL POLICIES TO THE CURRENT SEARCH FOR A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE SIMULTANEOUS EFFORT TO REMOVE LAST VESTIGES OF COLONIAL RULE AND IDENTITY. M'BOW URGED THAT AFRICAN CULTURE NOT BE THOUGHT OF TOTALLY IN TERMS OF TRADITIONAL PAST OR SEEN AS THREATENED BY MODERNIZATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION. ON CONTRARY MUST PROVIDE CONTINUITY AND BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO, AND OPERATE AS FACTOR OF SOCIAL CHANGE. WHILE MUCH UNITES THE CULTURES OF THE AFRICAN NATIONS, ARISING FROM COMMON EXPERIENCE OF OPPRESSION AND RACISM, PLURALIST NATURE SHOULD NOT BE FEARED OR SHUNNED. UNESCO INTEREST AND
- UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 07105 281533Z

SUPPORT IN AREAS OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL ORALITY,

TRADITIONAL ARTS, COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT,  
SITE PRESERVATION PLEDGED AND GUIDANCE OF CONFERENCE SOUGHT.

3. OAU SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA IN OPENING ADDRESS DESCRIBED DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN CULTURE AS REVOLUTIONARY UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE CONTINUING PROTECTION FROM COLONIAL INFLUENCE. AFRICAN CULTURE, AS REFUGE OF AFRICAN SOUL, COULD NOT BE ANNIHILATED THROUGHOUT COLONIAL EXPERIENCE. AS FORMER UNESCO OFFICIAL ETEKI STRESSED CONVERGENCE OF CONCERNS BETWEEN OAU SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND UNESCO AND PROPHESED FRUITFUL COOPERATION IN ACCELERATING BIRTH OF "NEW SPECIES OF MAN-SENSITIVE AND COMMITTED, A BUILDER OF SOCIETIES, A POET AND CREATOR, A MAN OF RESPONSIBILITY." THE EFFORT TO DEFINE ROLE OF CULTURE IN MODERN AFRICA WAS SEEN AS PROVIDING "THE FREEDOM TO BE WHAT AFRICANS ARE TO BECOME."

4. IN WELCOMING ADDRESS, GHANAIAAN HEAD OF STATE COL. I. K. ACHEAMPONG SAID CONCERN FOR CULTURAL ASSERTION MARKS NEW PHASE IN INDEPENDENCE AFTER INITIAL CONCERN WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PLIGHT IS LESSENER. GHANA'S PROGRAM OF SELF-RELIANCE WAS DESCRIBED AS EFFORT TO MOBILIZE ALL RESOURCES TO ATTAIN THESE NEW GOALS. IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS IDENTIFICATION OF VALUES BY WHICH STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY IS MAINTAINED. IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETIES HAVE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS AND IDENTICAL POLICIES CANNOT APPLY TO BOTH, BUT IT IS CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY THAT NEEDS CULTURAL DEFINITION AS WELL AS ACCESS TO THE ENRICHMENT OF THE PAST.

5. CONFERENCE ELECTED CHIEF OF HOST COUNTRY DELEGATION, ELLISON OWUSU-FORDWOUE, NEW GHANAIAAN COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE, AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. CHIEF DELEGATES OF ETHIOPIA, GUINEA, MADAGASCAR, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SUDAN, TUNISIA, ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA WERE NAMED CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENTS AND TOGO DELEGATE RAPPORTEUR-GENERAL. GABONESE AND ALGERIAN DELEGATES NAMED TO HEAD TWO COMMISSIONS.  
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